

《魏则西事件发酵 中国调查百度及涉事医院》

HONG KONG — Chinese regulators have begun an investigation into the Internet giant Baidu after the death of a college student who said he received distorted information on cancer treatment from the company's search engine.

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The student, Wei Zexi, 21, from the central province of Shaanxi, died of synovial sarcoma, a rare form of cancer, on April 12. Before his death, he wrote a long post on a Chinese website that detailed his experience seeking treatment.

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In a promoted search result on Baidu, he learned of a hospital in Beijing that offered treatment for people with his condition. His family borrowed money to raise the more than 200,000 renminbi, or about \$30,000, to pay for a type of immunotherapy from the Second Hospital of the Beijing Armed Police Corps.

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Mr. Wei's form of cancer is generally treated with surgery and chemotherapy, and he accused Baidu of taking money to promote less proven treatments in its search results. After his death, the search company has been denounced online, with some people calling it by the similar sounding ??, or "100 poisons."

ate news agency, reported on Tuesday.

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“Our deepest condolences go out to Wei Zexi’s family,” Tracy Hu, a Baidu spokeswoman, wrote by email. “Baidu is a trusted company and we uphold extremely high standards to make our platform safe and trustworthy.”

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On its Weibo account, Baidu said that the Second Hospital of the Beijing Armed Police Corps, where Mr. Wei received treatment, is a top-level institution.

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“We will cooperate with law enforcement investigations to the best of our ability and crack down on all illegal behavior,” Baidu said in a Weibo post. “And we strongly call on the management departments of related hospital bureaus to strengthen hospital supervision and build a trustworthy treatment environment for patients.”

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The Second Hospital of the Beijing Armed Police Corps has not yet commented on the case. A representative for the hospital could not be reached on Tuesday.

